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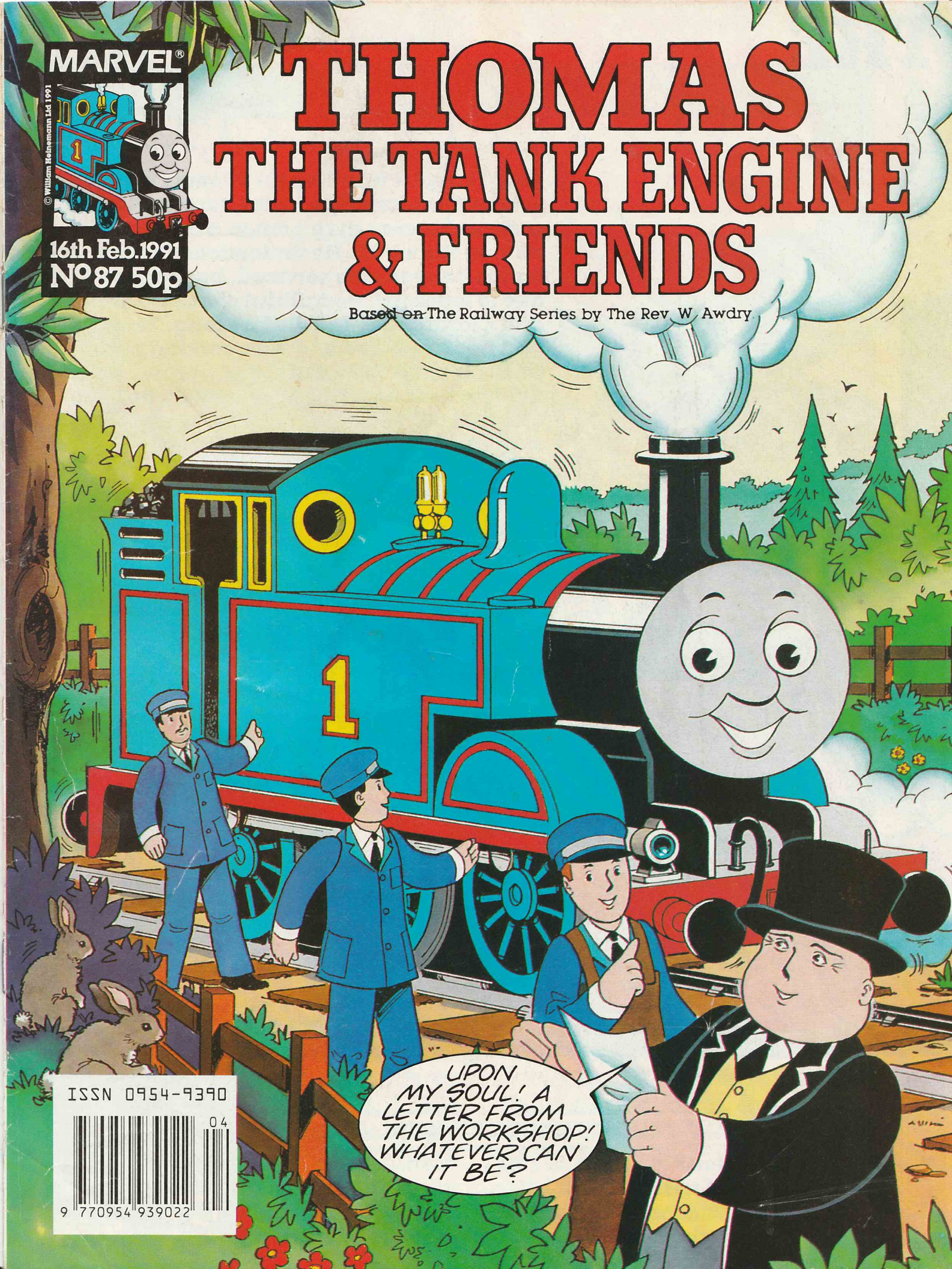
No 87 50p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev W. Awdry



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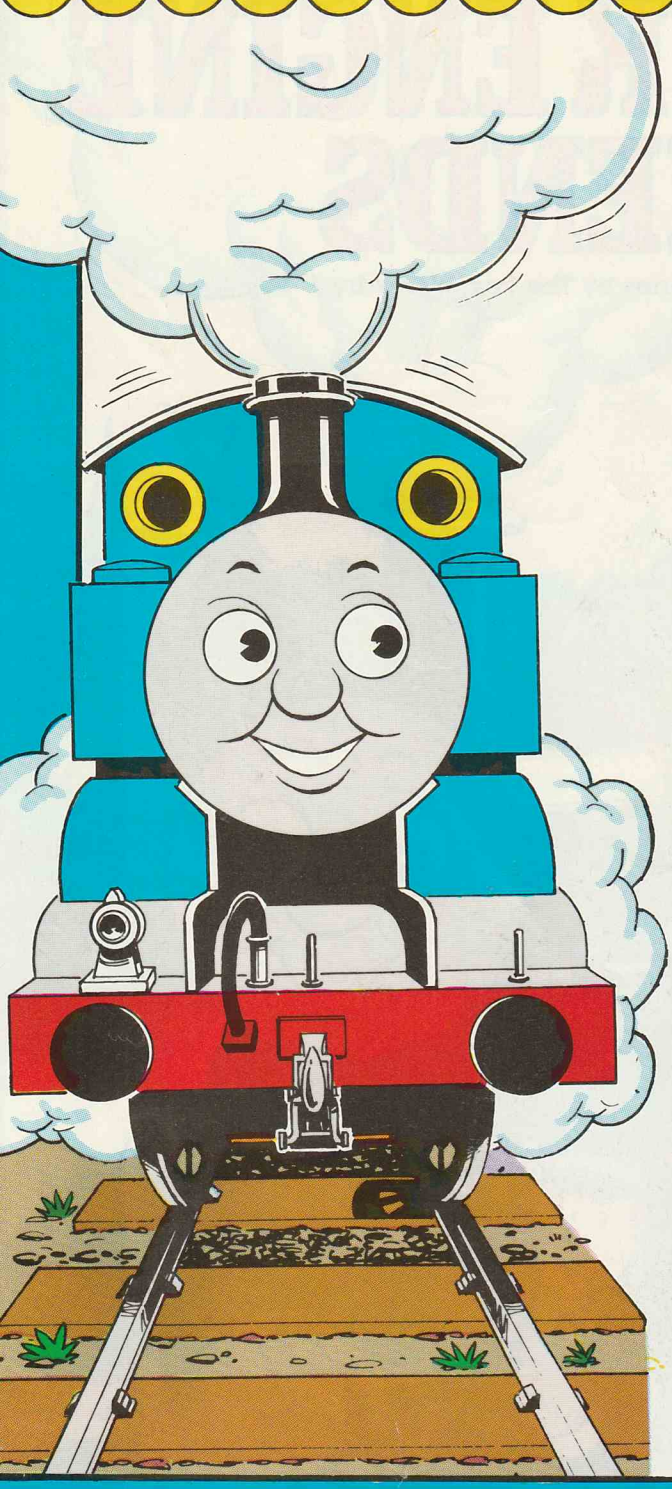
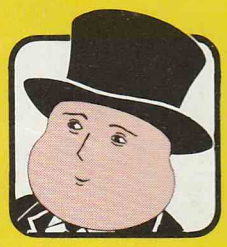
THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE



Peep! Peep! It was time for Thomas's driver to take Thomas to the works, for a full service! Thomas didn't much care for visiting the works. He understood that he had to be regularly serviced, but he didn't like to leave his two faithful coaches, Annie and Clarabel behind. Before long, Thomas had been serviced and was working back on his branch line again. But, ooh . . . he did feel peculiar! Whatever could it be? You can find out when you read the story that starts on the next page! Peep! Peep!

HELLO THERE!



The Fat Controller would like to say a very special hello to the following readers. . .

Leigh Austin, aged 2, **Mark James Storebridge,** aged 6, **Nathan Watson (31460),** aged 4 and **Christopher Cordie (32168),** aged 8.

If you would like to receive a special mention on this page, please send your details to the Fat Controller at the address shown on the letters page. Don't forget to include your membership number too!

In our next issue: A race is to be held between Bill and Ben! Who do you think will be the fastest?

THOMAS TOKEN

JOIN THE THOMAS CLUB!

If you would like to become a member of the **Thomas Club** and receive a splendid membership card, just collect 3 tokens like the one adjacent to this section. Send one **red**, **yellow** and **green** token together with one completed coupon (below), listing your details plus stamped addressed envelope, to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

Name ..... **Age** .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode ..... **Date of birth** .....

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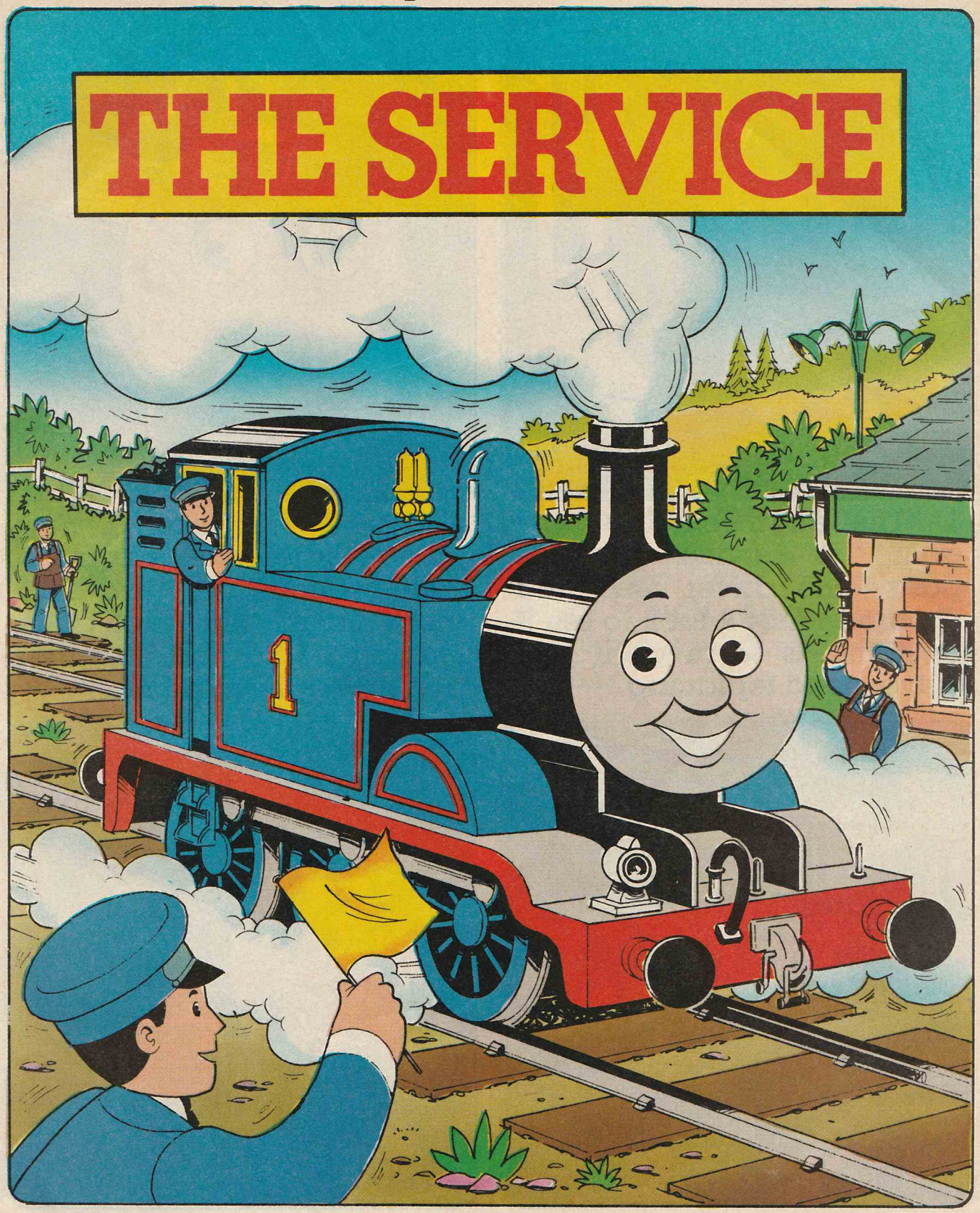
ABC
MEMBER OF THE AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS

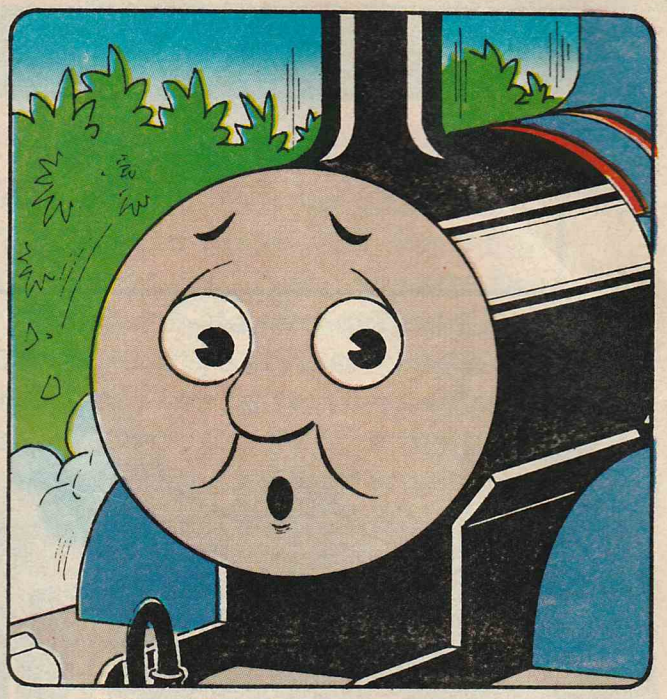
A listen and look story!



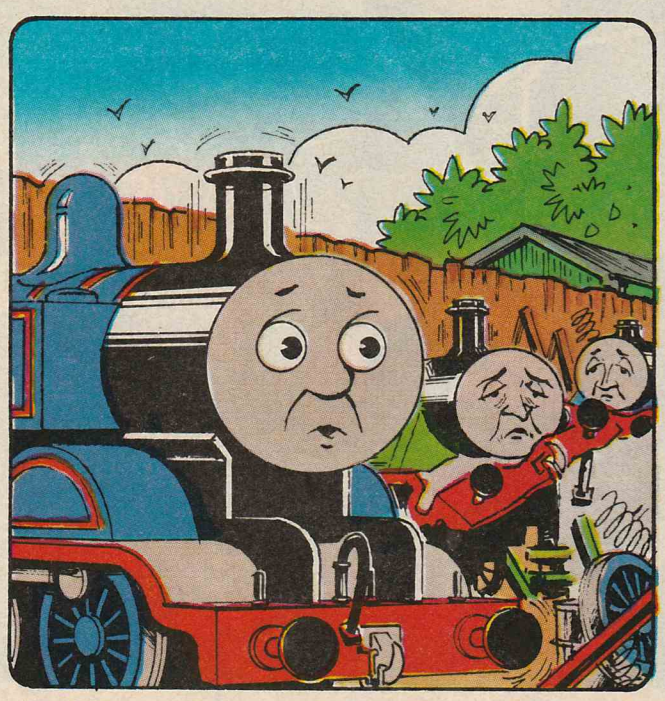
1. It was time for Thomas to have a full service. His driver would take him to the works so the engineers could check him over. Thomas didn't like going to the works.

2. "Why do I need to go?" Thomas asked his driver. "My valves and pistons have never felt better." "Now, now," said his driver, "you needn't worry so, Thomas!"

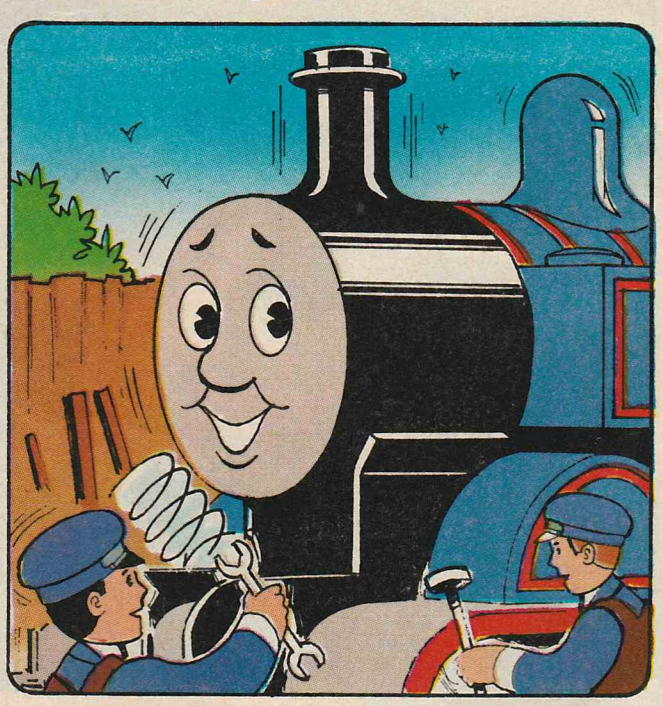
3. "The engineers are only going to service all your parts," the driver reassured Thomas. "They'll look to see if anything is worn or if any valves need replacing."



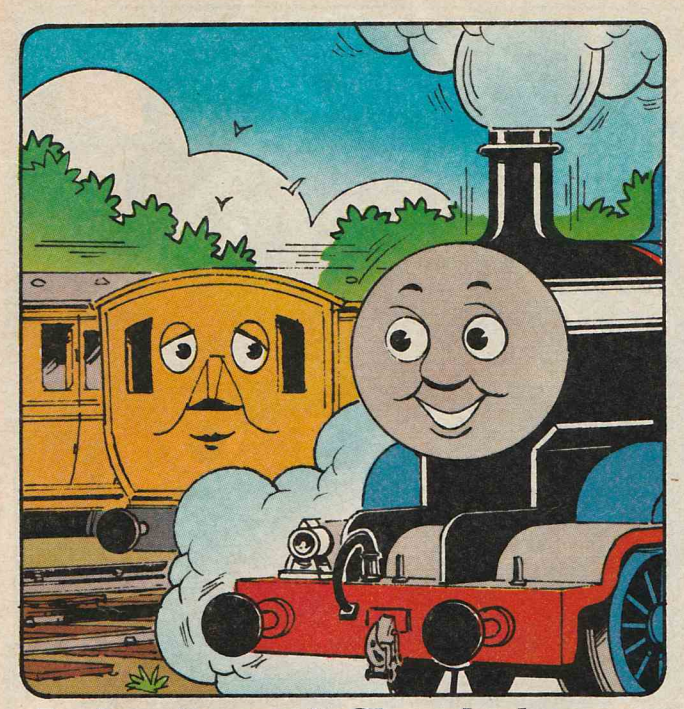
4. "You'll feel like a new engine when you return to your branch line," said Thomas's driver. "But I don't like leaving Annie and Clarabel behind," sighed Thomas.



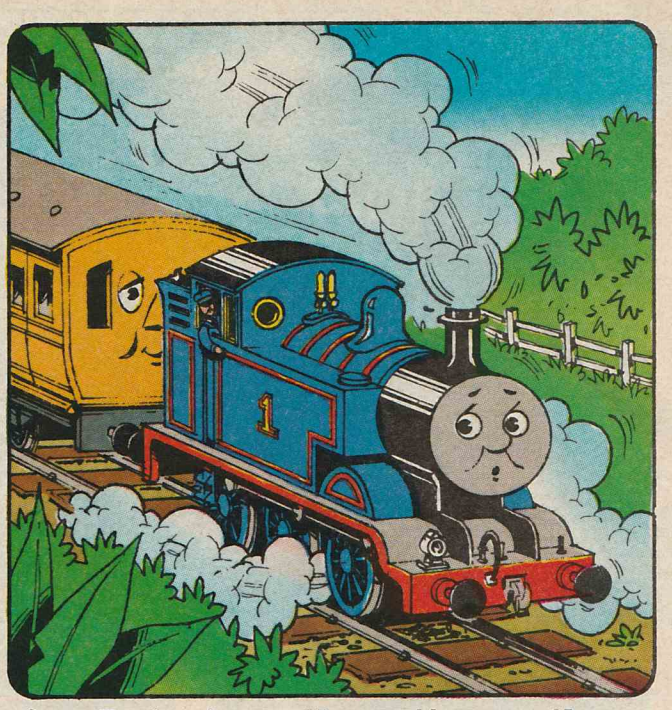
5. The driver left Thomas at the works, with some old and damaged engines. Many of them were all in pieces! The engineers soon began inspecting Thomas.



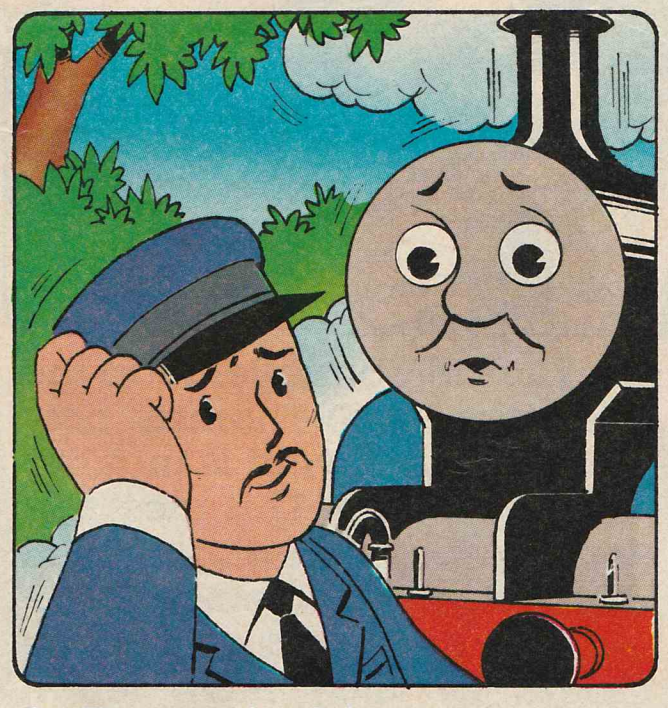
6. The engineers tightened bolts, cleaned valves and replaced parts that were worn. And when they had finished, Thomas looked splendid!



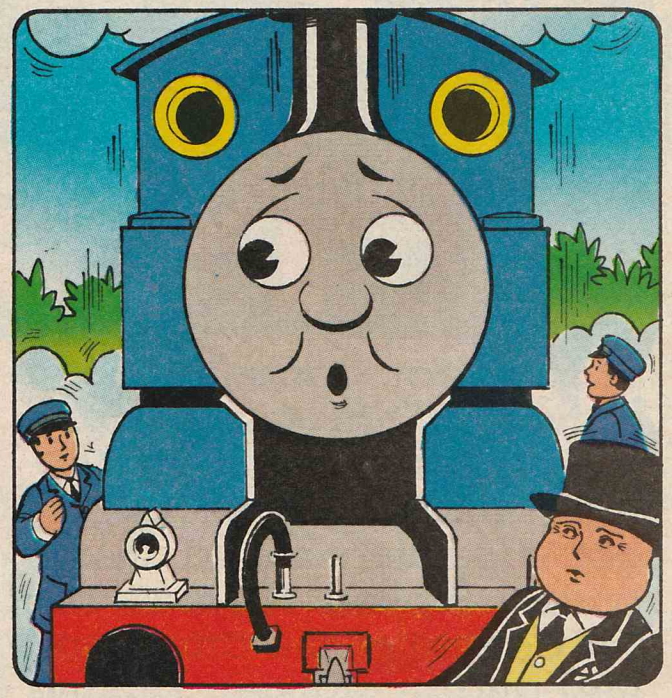
7. Annie and Clarabel were pleased to see Thomas when he returned from the works. "You look so clean and smart! So clean and smart!" they sang as he pulled them.



8. But by the time they reached the first station something was wrong. The driver could hear a loud knocking sound in Thomas's boiler.



9. Thomas's driver was confused. He couldn't understand what was wrong with Thomas after his service. Thomas felt sad and didn't want to return to the works.



10. "I think something must be loose," said Thomas's driver. "I think we should telephone the Fat Controller right away and see what he has to say."

11. The Fat Controller soon arrived. "What seems to be the trouble?" he asked Thomas, kindly. "Please sir, I've got a rattling sound in my boiler," replied Thomas. The Fat Controller, the driver and the guard walked around Thomas, trying to find out what was making the noise. Then a workman came with a message.

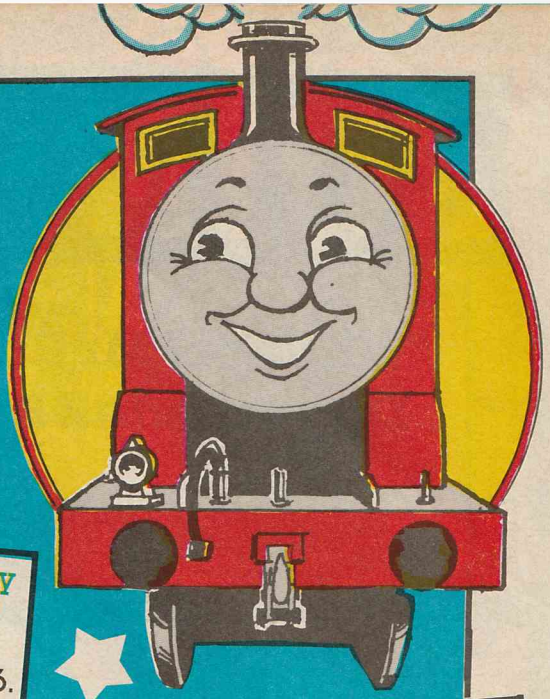
12. The Fat Controller read the message. "Well Thomas, now I can tell you what is making all the rattling. This message is from the chief engineer at the works. His special spanner has gone missing and he thinks he may have left it inside one of my engines by mistake!" "You have a spanner in your boiler!" everyone laughed.

THE END

In our next issue: No rails for Thomas!

JAMES'S JAPES

Have you got a favourite joke to tell James? If so, then why not send it to him at the address shown on the letters page?! The best jokes we receive will be printed in some of our future issues!



What travels all over the world but stays in the corner?
A postage stamp!
Michael, aged 7.

What is big, white and furry and found in Manchester?
A lost polar bear!
Simon, aged 6.

What does the sea say to the beach?
Nothing, it just waves!
Nicholas, aged 5.

What do you get if you cross a pig with a flea?
Pork scratchings!
Adam, aged 8.

Where are the Andes?
At the end of the wristies!
Steven, aged 4.

What flies and wobbles?
A jellycopter!
Stuart, aged 4.

What fish is famous?
A star-fish!
Larry, aged 5.

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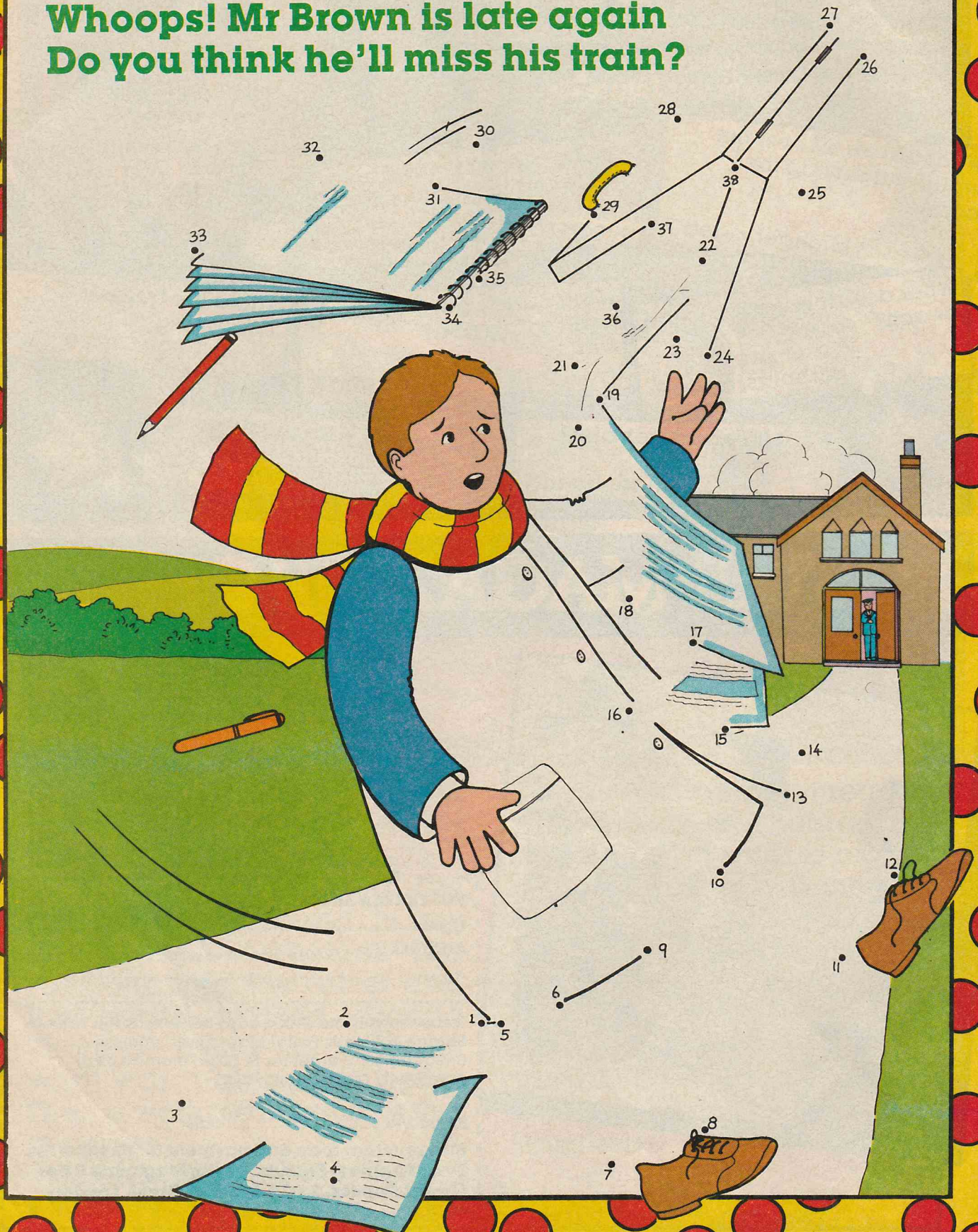
Please supply me with a copy of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Poster Magazine. I enclose a cheque/postal order for £1.50 (to include p&p) payable to *Marvel Comics Ltd.*

Signature ..... *Date* .....

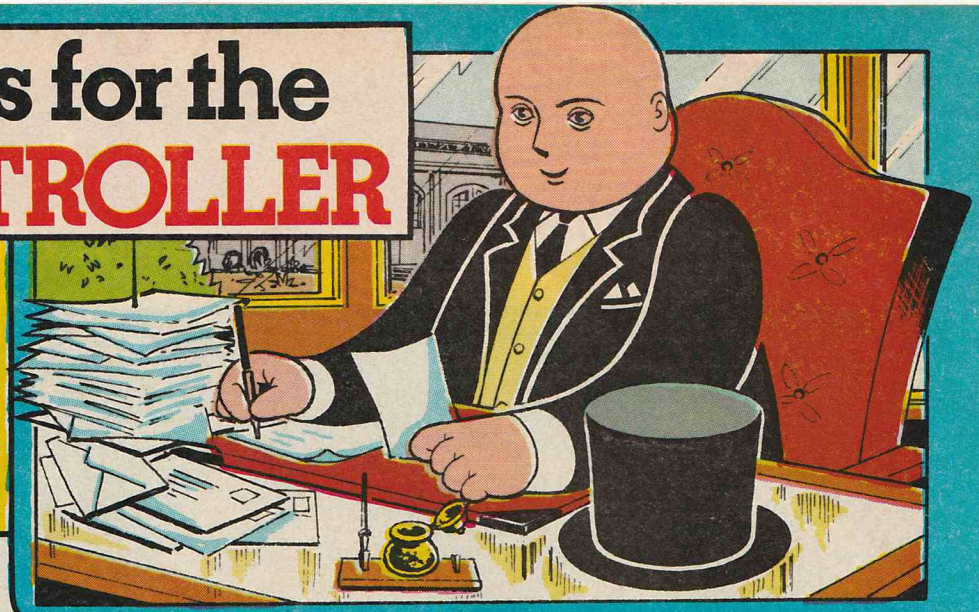
Please return form and payment to: Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Poster Magazine Offer, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

JOIN THE DOTS!

Whoops! Mr Brown is late again
Do you think he'll miss his train?



Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

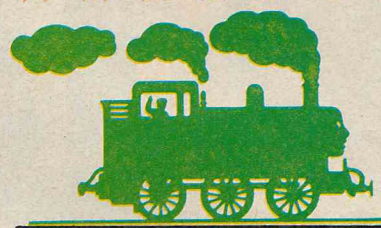
STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
My auntie Tina, has a car named Thomas. He is the same colour as **Thomas the Tank Engine!** Auntie Tina has also got a model of **Thomas the Tank Engine** which sits in the back of the car. I enjoy going on journeys with my auntie!

Love from **Alexandra.**

Upon my soul. . . I am not surprised that you enjoy riding in your auntie's car so much! It must look very splendid indeed!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win a splendid **Thomas the Tank lunchbox and flask** – from *Bluebird Toys (UK) Ltd.*

A FRIENDLY WAVE!

Dear Fat Controller,
My nanny lives near a big railway bridge. Whenever I go to visit her, my mummy and I stand on the bridge and wait for the trains. When they go past, we wave to the drivers and they always wave back! They are so friendly, just like your drivers on the Island of Sodor!

Lots of love from **Ben** (28800).

Well, well . . . what a splendid time you and your mummy must have! I remember waving to the train drivers too, when I was a young boy! And nowadays I especially enjoy waving to my drivers, as they steam by!

SILLY COOK!

Dear Fat Controller,
My dad is silly at cooking. He once made chips and they were awful. Do you ever cook?

Love from **John** aged 4.

Indeed I do! Although I must say that I have never tried to cook chips myself.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Robert Warlow, Craig Thomas (34508), Daniel Rich (29352), Daniel Lindsey (28179), John Hodge, Lisa Hodge, James Keep (33495), Jamie Wakefield, Thomas Price, Amy Louise Hardwell (33958), Ian Patrick Shaw, Alan Stuart Craggs (29567), David Smith (8156), Matthew Jon Mason (34230), Linda MacDonald, Conrad Thompson (25723), Mark Minchin (33817), Timothy Major, Sarah Mason (24633), Alistair Cleeves, Paul Butcher (33010), Thomas Marson, Mark Rowan (4267), James O'Conner (15703) and Lorraine Beecham.

If you would like a birthday mention here, just send details on a postcard, at least nine weeks in advance. We cannot promise to print all the birthdays, but we will do our best.

Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt.

the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

Clearing th

Which engine can you see?

Do you know his twin's name?

What has happened to the snowman?

Point to the church spire!

How many geese

What colour is the

How many childr

Why do you think

he snow!

eese are flying in the sky?

is the snowman's scarf?

hildren can you see?

think they look sad?

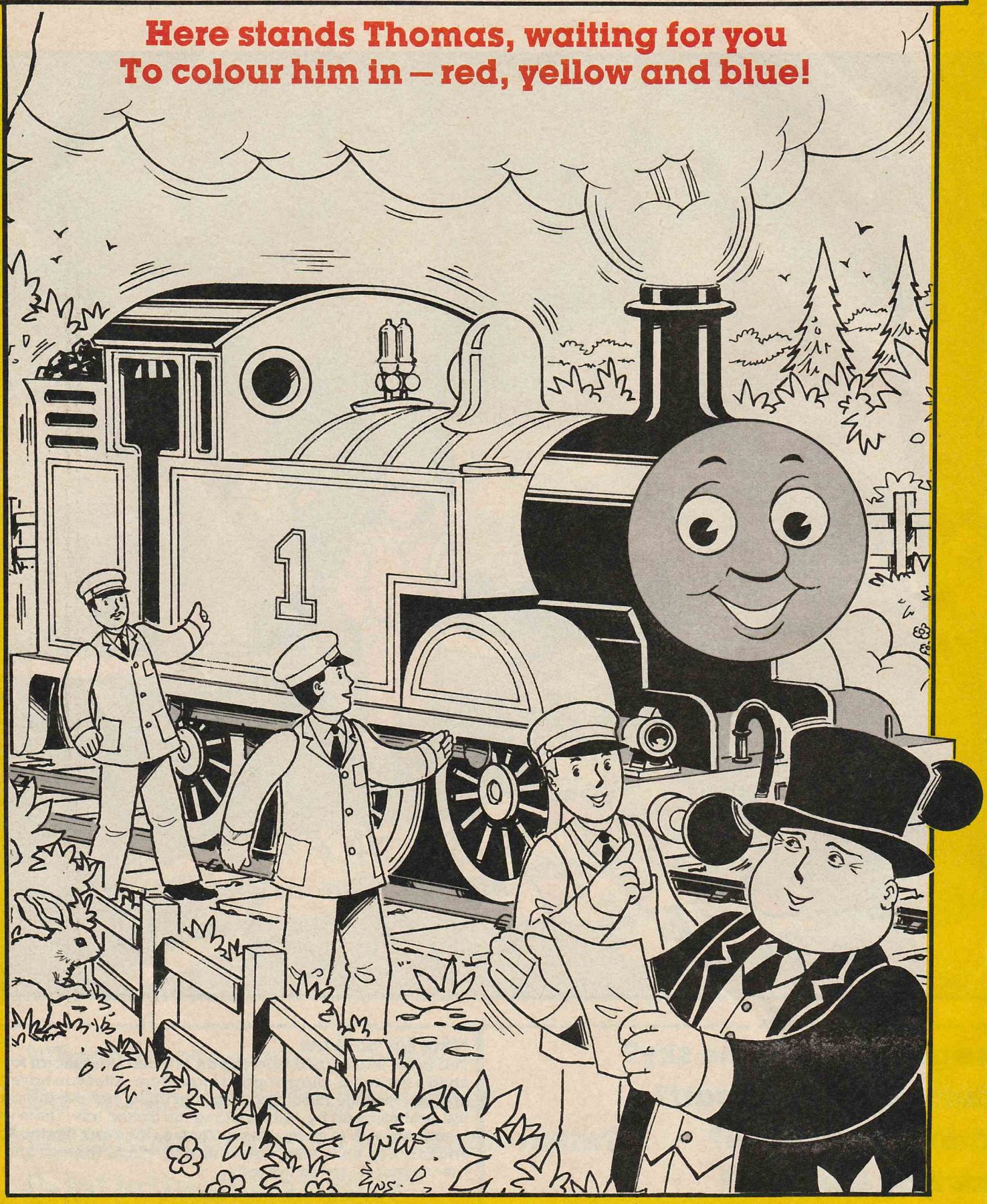
Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

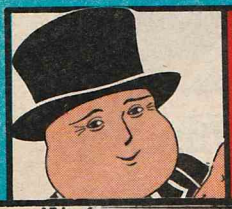
Next issue: Turning the soil!

COLOURING TIME!

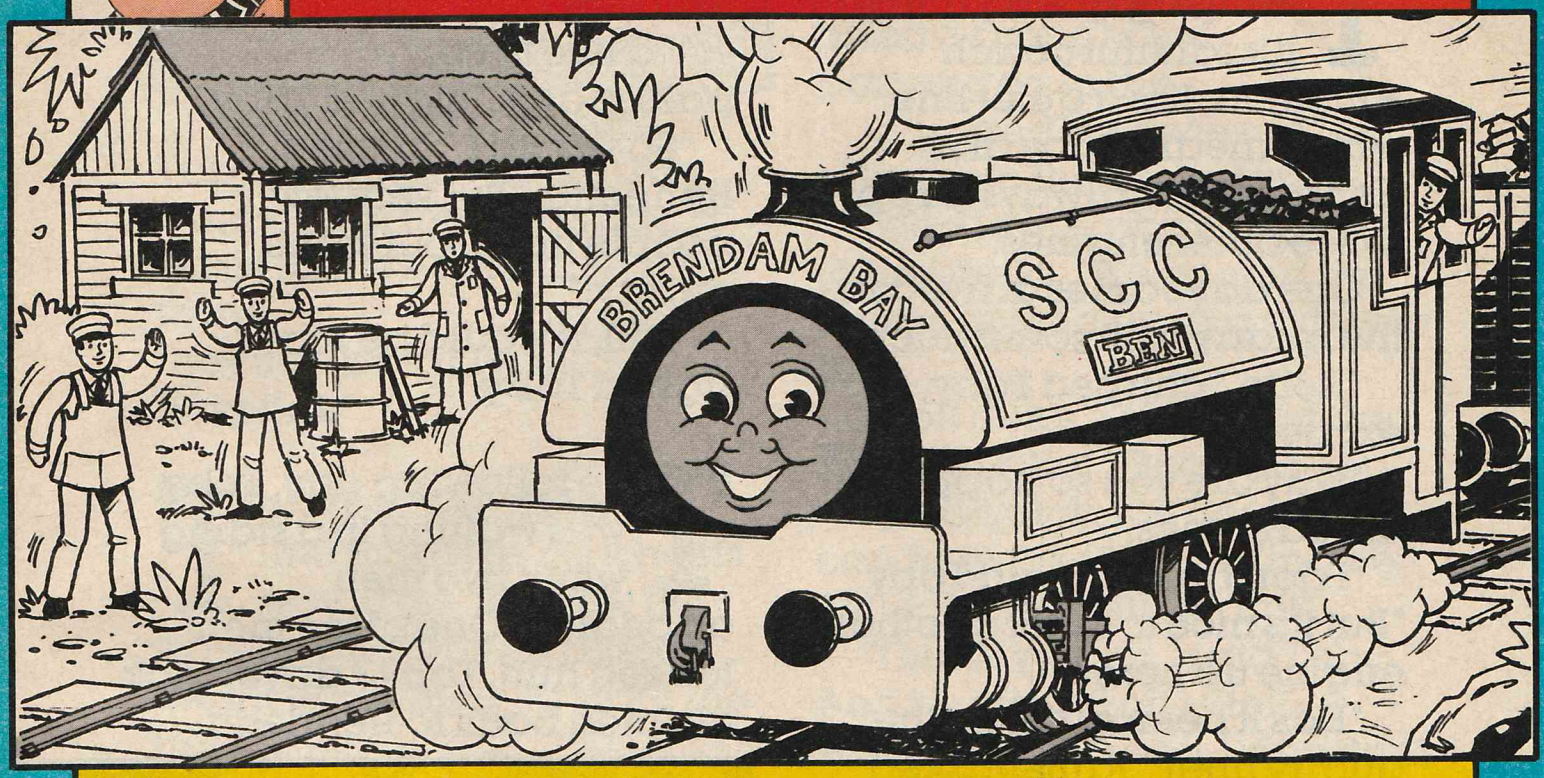
Here stands Thomas, waiting for you
To colour him in – red, yellow and blue!

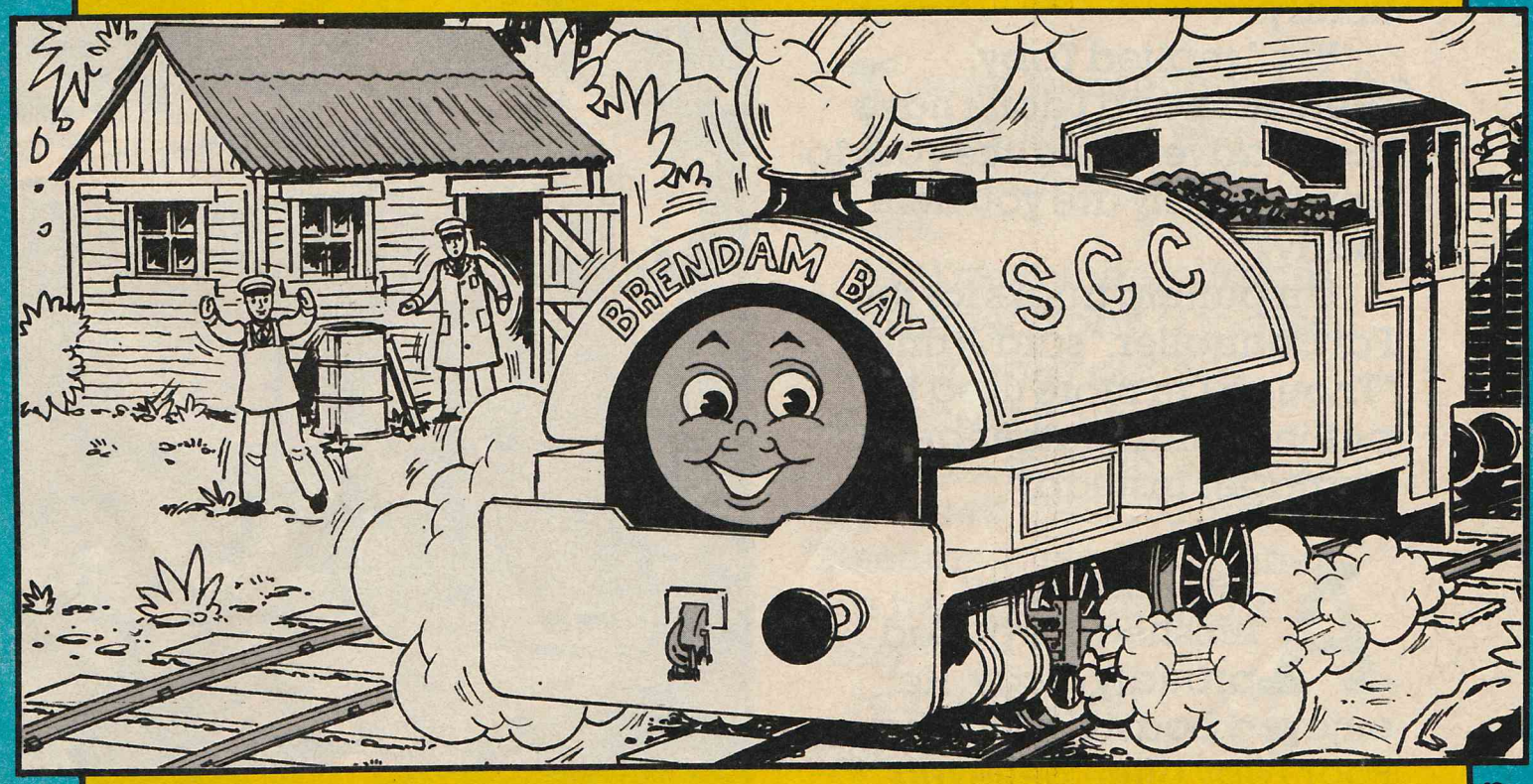


PUZZLE TIME



These two pictures may look exactly the same, but if you look carefully you'll see there are five differences! When you have found them, why not colour both these splendid pictures with your brightest pencils and crayons?!





A read-aloud story!

Toby's Passenger!

Toby works on an outlying quarry line with his faithful coach Henrietta. It is a quiet line, which means Toby and Henrietta are always happy to see other engines.

One day James arrived in the quarry with some trucks.

"Hello," chirped Toby, excitedly.

"Why are you so happy?" asked James.

"I don't know," said Toby. "But it's nice to meet another engine up here!"

"Has it been quiet on the quarry line?" James asked kindly.

"Yes," replied Toby, "Henrietta and I don't have many adventures like you do! Anyway, why are you here today?"

"I'm pulling trucks for the Fat Controller," said James. "Though I'm more used to pulling smart passenger carriages instead!"

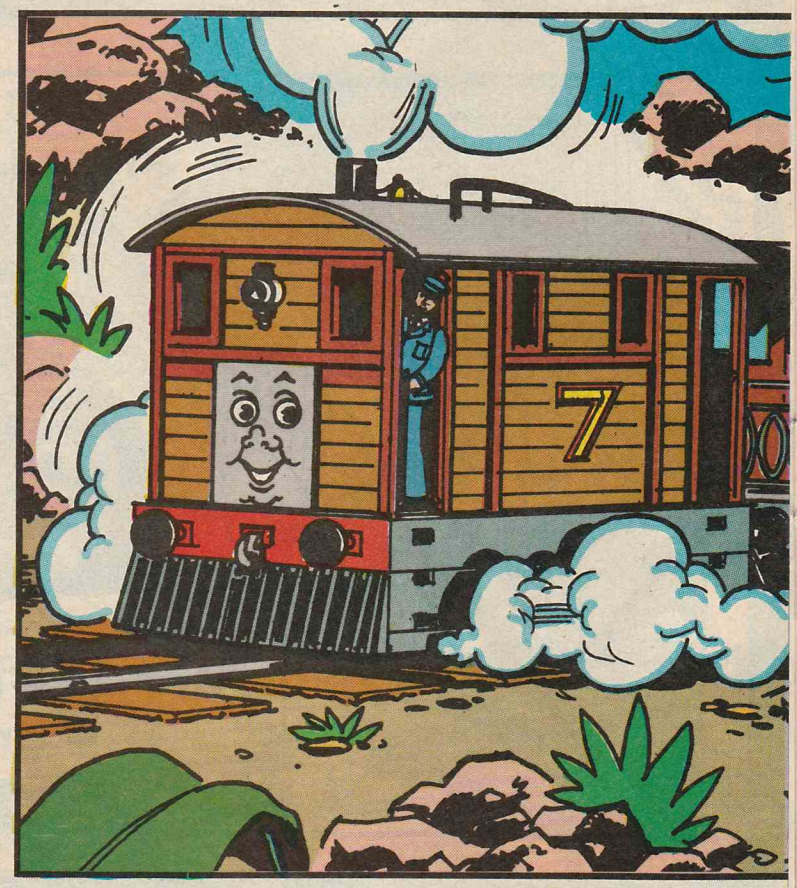
After James had finished, he puffed proudly away. He enjoyed boasting to Toby. Poor Toby often believed everything the big engines told him.

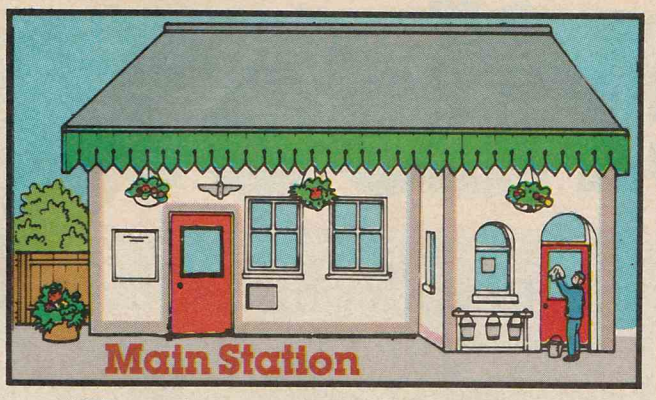
"I'd like to carry passengers," sighed Toby.

"So would I," agreed Henrietta. "But very few people travel out to the quarry!"

"Still, it would be nice," sighed Toby.

The following day, Toby was waiting in a siding when two men appeared. One of the men looked hurt. Toby's driver took the men back to Henrietta.





"They're rock climbers, Toby," explained his driver. "And one of them has had a nasty fall. We must take them to the Main Station so that they can be taken to hospital!"

Toby hurried down the line as fast as his wheels would go. He blew his whistle loudly as he passed the level crossing, to warn the traffic.

Toby's guard had telephoned the Main Station and asked for an ambulance to be waiting for them when they arrived.

Toby felt very proud once he had brought the passengers to the Main Station and they were safely taken into the ambulance.

"We did it," Toby whispered to Henrietta. "We carried the climbers quickly and safely to the Main Station!

"Well done, Toby," said the Fat Controller. "Because you were so quick, the hospital can help the climber and he will soon be well again!"

"Thank you, sir," said Toby. And he rushed off to tell James all about his important journey.

James was shunting in the yard. He was very surprised to see Toby arrive.

"You're shunting, James," exclaimed Toby. "I thought you normally pulled passenger trains?"

"No, he often shunts trucks," answered the Fat Controller. "It seems to me that James has been boasting to you, Toby."

James did feel embarrassed.

THE END

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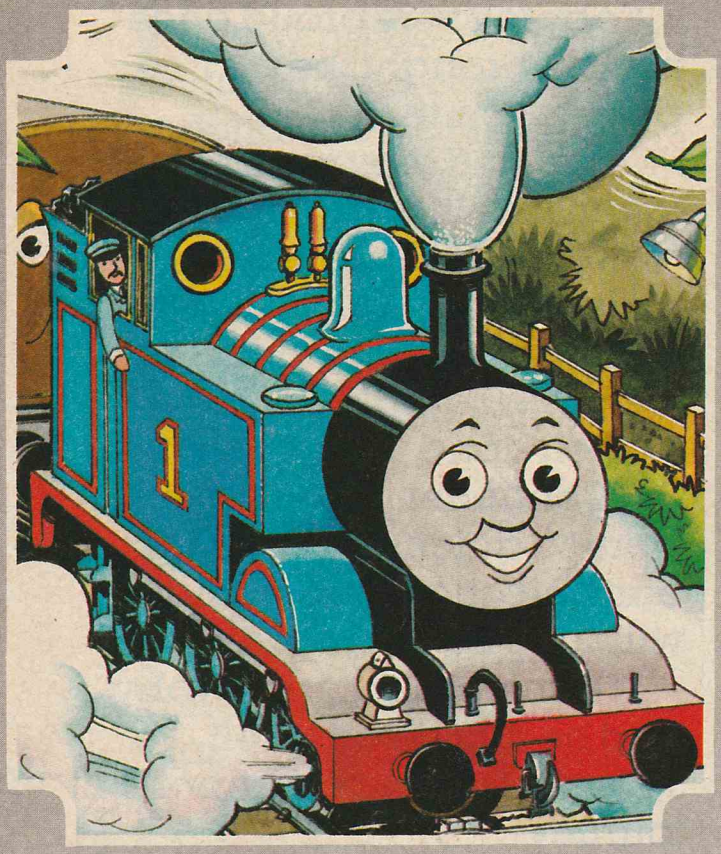

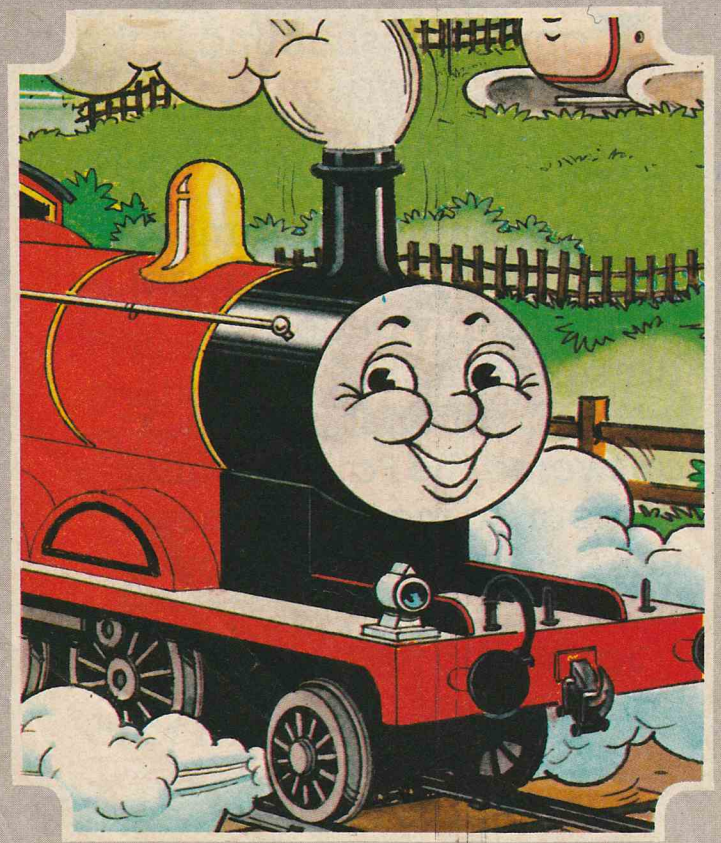

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Address .....

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Child's date of birth .....

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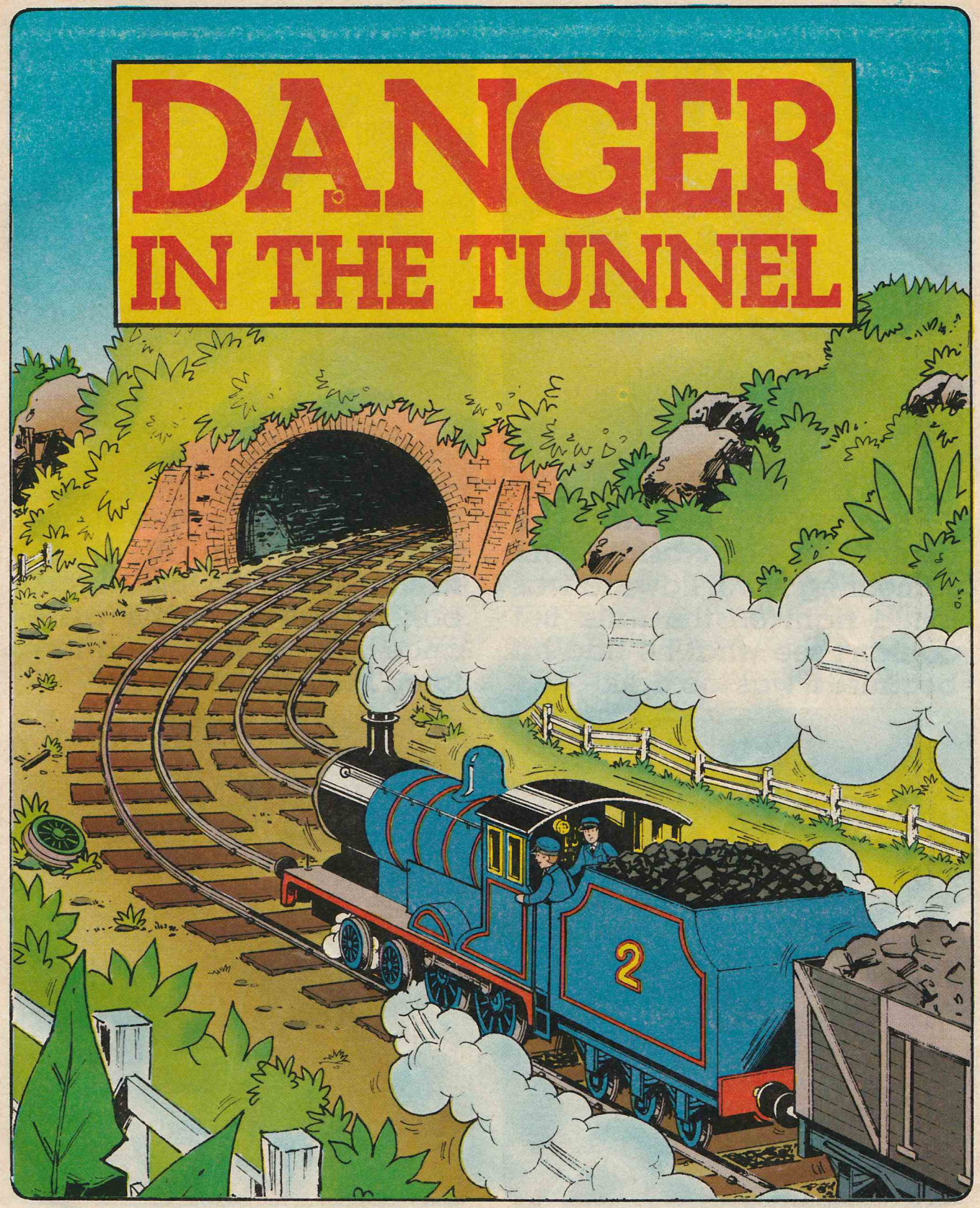
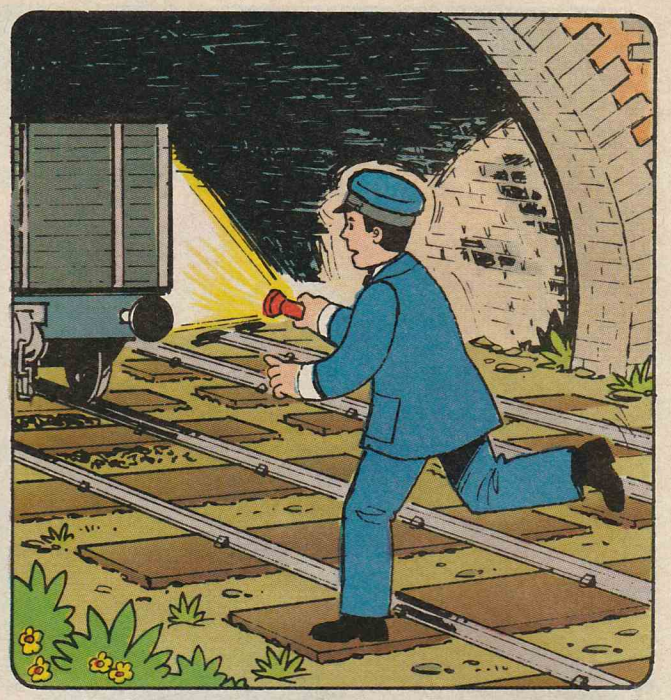
A listen and look story!



1. One day Edward was out on his branch line pulling some trucks. "Hurry along! Hurry along!" he sang to them as they approached a tunnel. Edward liked tunnels.

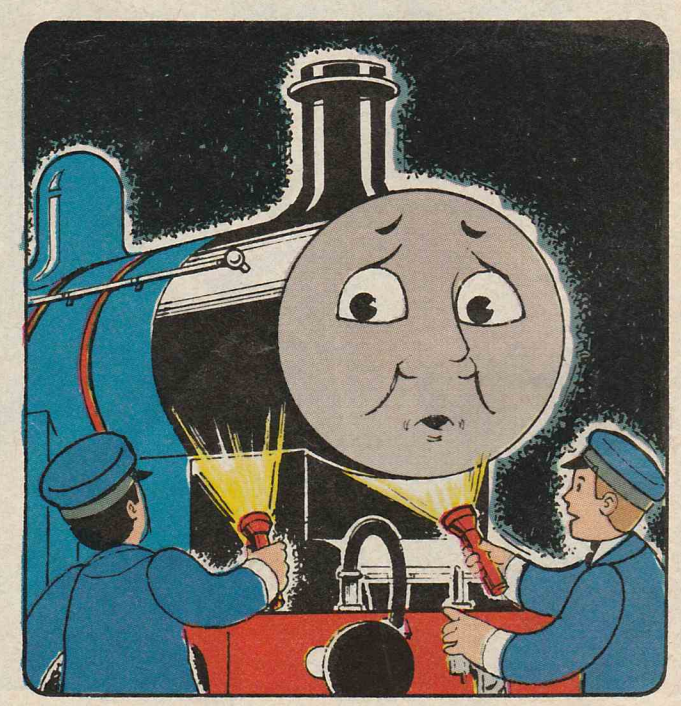
2. He liked to rush into the darkness! Everything sounded noisy and echoey inside the tunnel. Then back out into the daylight again. It was great fun for an engine!

3. Edward rushed into the tunnel, but then **crash!!** He hit something hard! Edward was jolted right off the rails. But couldn't see what he had hit because it was too dark!

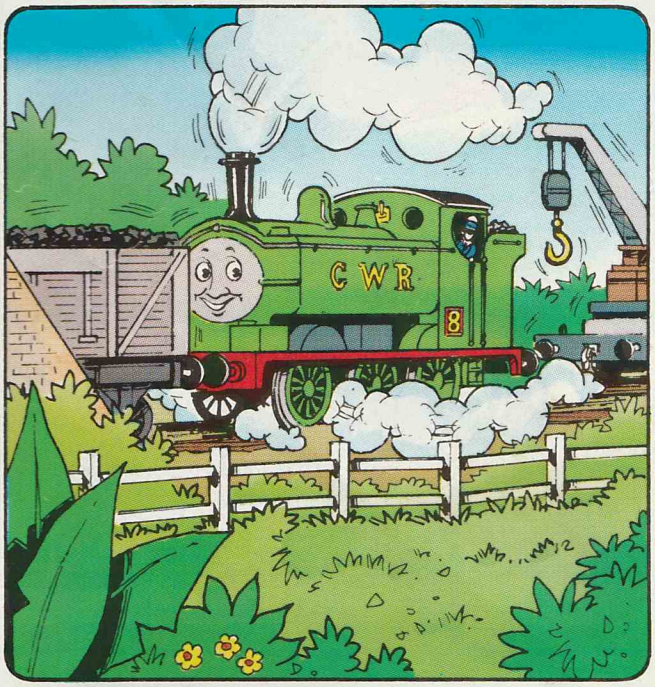


4. Edward sat in the tunnel waiting for help. His guard rushed away to the signal-box to call for some assistance. He then brought a torch back to the tunnel!

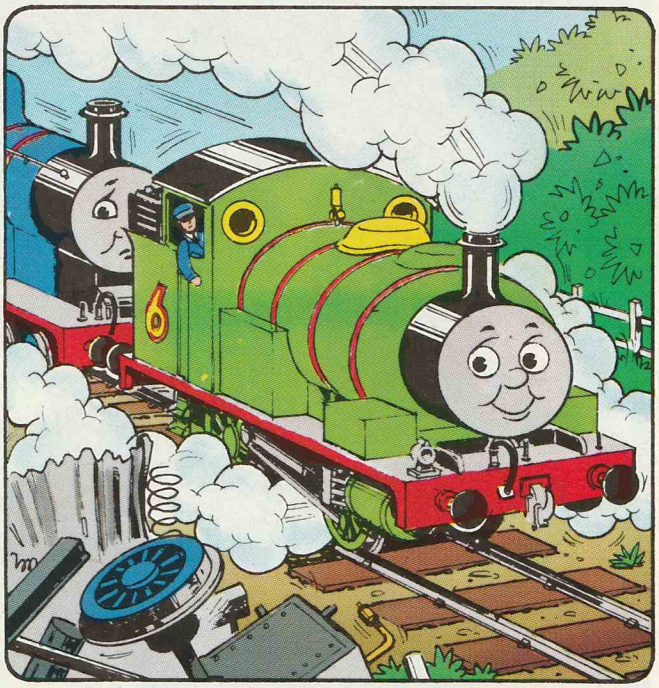
5. The guard shone the light onto the line. There was a big pile of bricks which had fallen from the roof of the tunnel. Then the guard shone the torchlight onto Edward.



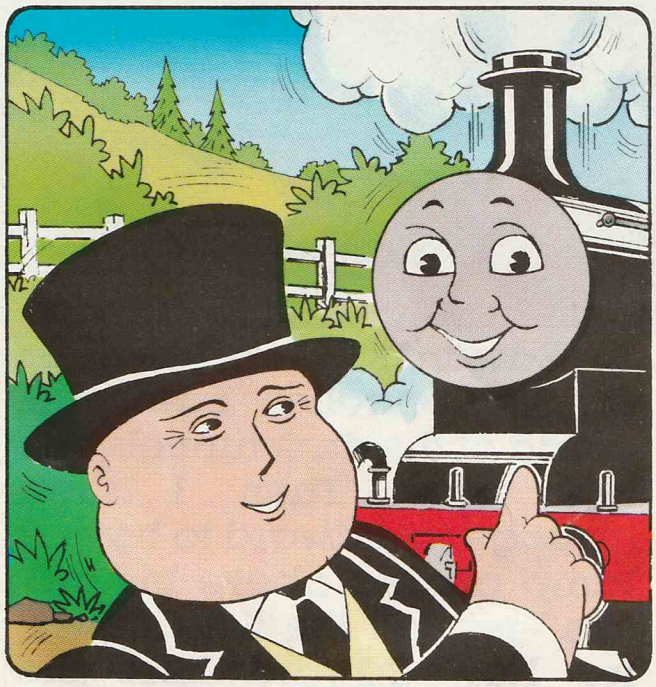
6. "You've got a few dents, Edward," said the guard. "But we'll soon have you back on the rails again." A couple of the trucks had also been slightly damaged.



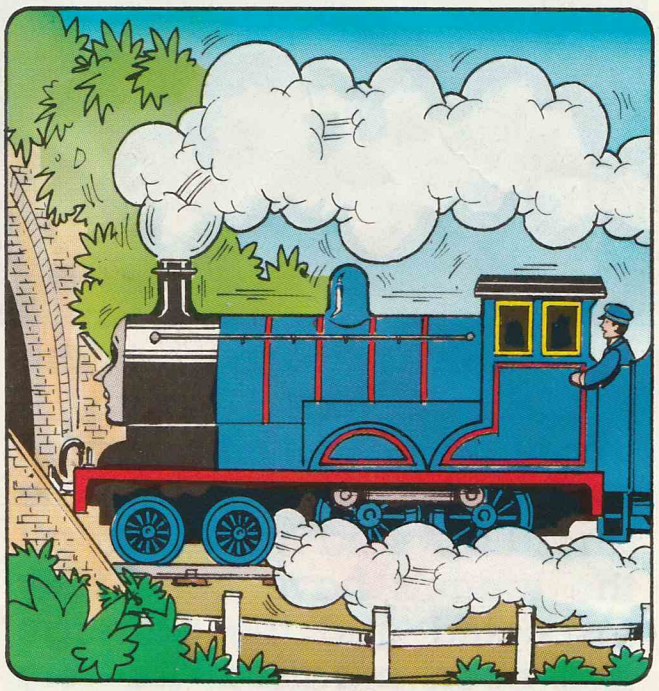
7. Eventually Percy and Duck arrived with a crane. First, they pulled the trucks out of the tunnel. Then the men used the crane to lift Edward back onto the rails again.



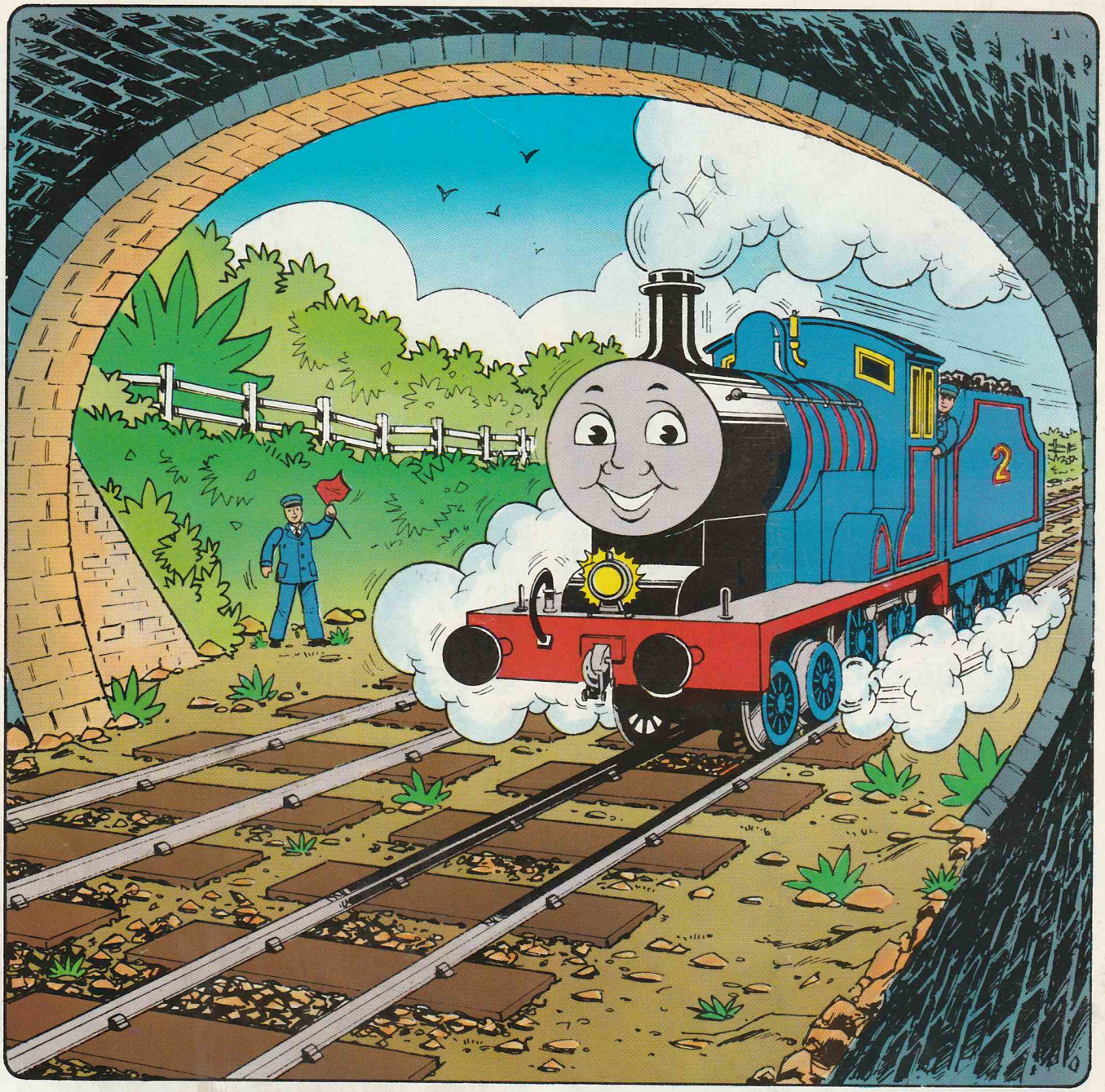
8. Percy then towed Edward off to the works. The engineers repaired him in a couple of days. But the tunnel was difficult to mend. It had to be closed for a long time.



9. Soon Edward was working again. "You've been very brave, Edward," said the Fat Controller. "The tunnel was in a dangerous condition!" "Thank you, sir," said Edward.



10. Everything seemed as if it were back to normal again, until Edward came to a tunnel. Instead of rushing ahead, he stopped! "What is the matter?" asked his driver.



11. "I don't want to go in the tunnel," whispered Edward. "I might get dented again!" "But there is nothing to be afraid of," said his driver, "all the tunnels have been fully inspected and the damage has been repaired. It's very safe." "Alright," sighed Edward. But each time he came to a tunnel the same thing would happen.

12. Edward's driver spoke to the Fat Controller. "Edward is afraid of the dark tunnels," he told him. "Then I shall arrange for Edward to have a lamp placed above his buffers," replied the Fat Controller. Now Edward likes the tunnels again; rushing into the darkness. And there is always enough light to see if something **is** on the rails.

THE END

In our next issue: The stronger twin!